III. REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Alter, Steven; *Information Systems: A Management Perspective*, 2nd Edition, The Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Company, 1996 (hereafter "Alter"). Applicants respectfully submit that Alter does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants submit that Alter fails to teach or suggest defining a project business need, the project business need being discrete and having a fixed duration. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Alter also fails to teach or suggest defining a project technical need, the project technical need involving resources needed to realize the project business need. Still further, as previously argued, Applicants respectfully submit that Alter also fails to teach or suggest determining, according to the project business need, a number of IT sites spread over a geographic area and determining, according to the project technical need, the skilled people groups and computer equipment required inside the geographic area. Yet still further, Applicants respectfully submit that Alter also fails to teach or suggest physically consolidating the IT sites of the geographic area to form a unique project geographic area for realizing the project business need by considering project cost parameters

and geographic site location peculiarities. Yet still further, as argued previously, Applicants respectfully assert that there is no support in Alter for extrapolating the teachings of Alter to make the claimed invention obvious in light of its teachings. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.
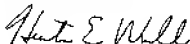
With respect to dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims from which the claims depend. Furthermore, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. Since the cited art does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

IV. CONCLUSION

In addition to the above arguments, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. Additionally, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's combinations and modifications of the various references or the motives cited for such combinations and modifications. These features and the appropriateness of the Office's combinations and modifications have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 23, 2007

Hunter E. Webb
Reg. No.: 54, 593

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)

RAD/hew